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tive impartiality, and its convenient size, character, and make-up as a work of reference. The index is fairly adequate and the eight genealogical tables, though inadequately provided with life dates, are useful and interesting.

N. M. TRENHOLME.

*The Reign of Henry the Fifth.* By JAMES HAMILTON WYLIE, M.A., D. Litt. Volume I., 1413-1415. (Cambridge: University Press. 1914. Pp. 589.)

THIS work is a continuation of the author's *History of England under Henry IV.*, which appeared in four volumes, 1884-1898, and it is similar in scope, idiosyncrasy, and charm, with a real advance in literary quality—and price (25 shillings). The criticism which accompanied the earlier work through its protracted production did not cause the author to curb his antiquarian, word-variant, and genealogical interests, or to reduce the saturation of his text with racy adaptations of contemporary aphorism and epithet. And the new volume is faithful to the tantalizing *genre* established by its predecessors.

To the many familiar with the author's *Henry IV.* it will be superfluous to state that *Henry V.* has little unity in the approved historical sense. The book is in truth a collection of discursive essays, tales, and discrete facts, bearing upon some of the dominant medieval interests, upon many of our modern interests in things medieval, and upon not a few hobbies of the author. The first chapter starts with the coronation of Henry V. and ends with the "epidemic of chin-cough called 'the thumps'", which, *e. g.*, kept the Registrar of the Parliament of Paris awake at night "with racking pains in his head, shoulders, legs, arms, ribs, kidneys, stomach and all over him" (p. 10). The Wylie touch is there! The last chapter (XXVII.) is devoted primarily to the conspiracy which immediately preceded the king's departure for France, and concludes with a five-page analysis of King Henry's will—which was superseded by the will made in 1421. Thus the *termini* of the book are marked off chronologically, but the road between is not fenced, and the author is able to wander into many series of branching by-paths, and to follow them, when he wishes, far behind and beyond the terminal points.

If the new book lacks historical unity, it possesses in a large degree the more primitive unity of life itself. Within the broad confines of his interests the author, attaching himself firmly to the very language of his sources, and with a manifest bias toward virile, racy, odorous, color-full phrases, brings the reader close to some features of Lollardy, superstition, treachery, diplomacy, building, monasteries, hospitals, arms, finance, wages, prices, food, dress, secularization—and hard common-sense of the time. These topics are handled "hither and yon"; one thing leads to another in apparently the most natural and artless fashion;

there is no attempt at systematic *Kulturgeschichte*; there is little generalization; and yet there is order within each chapter, and, best of all, the reader obtains a grasp upon the realities of the life of the times which is rare and precious.

The book, then, is another rich mine of miscellaneous lore upon and around the early fifteenth century, opened by the learned, hearty, and indefatigable author, and judging from the preface to the fourth volume of his *Henry IV.*, he would be well content to have it so regarded. The difference between the title of this work and its predecessor is another indication of his feelings on this point.

The foot-notes, which make up approximately half the book, demonstrate—despite the occasional use of ordinary secondary works for ancillary data—the remarkable breadth and depth of Wylie's scholarship. But the excessive compression of the citations, frequently reduced to the name of the author, or the abbreviated title, and the page, renders the work of identification a task, and the absence of a bibliography makes the defect serious. The numerous appendixes to which the reader is referred are missing. The index is fairly accurate, although it is not equal to that which so nobly completed the *Henry IV.* These blemishes would doubtless have been removed in the course of the publication of the entire work, which was apparently drawn on a much larger scale (one volume to two years) than *Henry IV.* (vol. I., 1399–1404), but the lamented death of the stout-hearted author, February 28, aged seventy, leaves us in doubt as to how much more we are to have. However, considering the interval between the last volume of *Henry IV.* and this volume, broken only by the *Council of Constance* (1900), it seems reasonable to cherish the hope that the author has left matter for at least another volume.

GEORGE C. SELLERY.

*Studies in the History of English Commerce in the Tudor Period:*

*The Organization and Early History of the Muscovy Company.*

By ARMAND J. GERSON, Ph.D. *English Trading Expeditions into Asia under the Authority of the Muscovy Company (1557–1581).* By EARNEST V. VAUGHN, Ph. D. *English Trade in the Baltic during the Reign of Elizabeth.* By NEVA RUTH DEARDORFF, Ph.D. [Publications of the University of Pennsylvania.] (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1912. Pp. xi, 344.)

THERE is a much greater unity in this work of three graduates of the University of Pennsylvania than the title indicates. The reign of Elizabeth was a time of national quickening in England, and this characteristic is shown nowhere more clearly than in the adventuring of new kinds of foreign commerce in the face of physical and political obstacles. Almost everyone interested in the social life of the sixteenth century has a general acquaintance with the external side of the movement as